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feet, would indicate a change in the relative level of the sea, amounting to perhaps between five and ten feet in a century."

Boulder clays are abundantly developed, containing numerous shells characteristic of the Leda clays of the coast of Labrador. It appears that the white whale still exists in considerable numbers all along the coast, while "the walrus is killed by the Esquimaux, principally about the entrance to Hudson's straits and around the Belcher islands. In former years this animal is reported to have been seen occasionally as far south as Little Whale river. On the opposite side of Hudson's bay walruses are said to have been seen near Cape Henrietta Maria. The narwhal is occasionally killed by the Esquimaux in the northern part of Hudson's bay. In the spring, soon after the shore ice disappears, the polar bear occasionally comes ashore on Long Island and the smaller islands between it and Great Whale river. In the winter they have been known to range as far south as the head of James' bay." The climate of the west coast of Hudson's bay in the Nelson river region is milder than that of the opposite coast, and that of the region about the Norway House is fully as good as that of the Province of Manitoba. The subsoil in places is frozen through the summer, and it is possible that toward York Factory it is permanently frozen.

The volume closes with reports by Messrs. L. W. Bailey and R. W. Ells on the Pre-silurian and Cambrian rocks of Southern New Brunswick, and on the superficial geology of New Brunswick, by Mr. G. F. Matthew; on the geology of Cape Breton, by H. Fletcher, with others on economical geology.

MORSE'S SHELL MOUNDS OF JAPAN.¹—Not only has Japan an university very fully manned with American, English and German instructors, but her desire to make it a genuine university, by contributing to the advancement of science, is made evident by the publication of a volume giving the results of researches carried on by the professors and students. The first contribution is to the new science of anthropology by a people which has but recently thrown off the habits of a semi-civilized race and adopted the modes and sciences of those which call themselves civilized. This memoir is timely in its issue, for with a tolerable acquaintance with prehistoric archæology in Europe, America and parts of Asia, such as we now possess, comparative studies on the prehistoric remains of a people so old as the Japanese, and with such an interesting geographical position, would prove highly suggestive and of very considerable value. And here it may be observed, parenthetically, that it is claimed by the author, "that there is no other country in the world where so great a number of gentlemen

¹ *Memoirs of the Science Department, University of Tokio, Japan.* Vol. 1, Pl. 1. Shell Mounds of Omori. By EDWARD S. MORSE, Professor of Zoölogy, University of Tokio, Japan. Published by the University, Tokio, Japan, 2539 (1879). 8vo, pp. 36, with 18 plates.

interested in archæology can be found as in Japan." Indeed there is a native archæological society in existence which holds regular meetings.

The Omori mounds lie six miles from Tokio, about half a mile from the shores of the Bay of Yeddo, and as shell mounds are naturally cast up near the shore, this indicates that the land has been elevated since their formation. These mounds differ from those of Denmark and New England by the great amount of pottery contained in them, by the great scarcity of stone implements, and by the absence of arrow-heads, spear-points and other pointed implements of stone, not a single arrow-head, flake or chip having been found after prolonged search, though rude stone hammers, celts and rollers, and instruments of bone occurred; but any ornaments for personal adornment, such as are worn by the Ainos, were entirely absent. While the remains of the monkey, deer, wild boar, wolf and dog occurred, the human bones were found to have been broken, "either with the object of extracting the marrow or for convenience of cooking in vessels of too small dimensions to admit them at length," while the bones were, in some cases, "strongly marked with scratches and cuts." These evidences of cannibalism are paralleled by those of the aborigines of Florida. Flattened tibiæ also occurred. The author also compares the shells found in the mounds, and discovered that much as on the coast of New England and Florida, they are now less abundant and smaller. While changes in the relative proportions of the shells of certain molluscs have taken place, the modifications in the relative size and proportions of certain species being considerable, and seeming to indicate "either that species vary in a much shorter time than had been supposed, or else that deposits presenting these peculiarities have a much higher antiquity than had before been accorded them." The differences seemed to be decided, though still within specific limits, and to have been produced at a minimum of 1500 to 2000 years, Japanese history extending back thus far.

The plates, printing and manufacture of the book is of Japanese origin, a Japanese as well as an English edition having been printed.

GROWTH AS A FUNCTION OF CELLS.¹—Under this title Mr. Minot discusses the subject of the increase of bulk, weight, etc., which attends the development of an individual organism from the one-celled egg-stage to maturity and death. The exponential formulæ presented, expressing the rate and consequences of growth, are just about as unsatisfactory as they well can be, and, while we would not for a moment doubt the accuracy of Mr. Minot's facts, the attempt to express the laws of growth, which

¹*Growth as a Function of Cells.* By CH. SEDGWICK MINOT. Proceedings Boston Soc. Nat. Hist., 1878-79. Vol. xx, Pt. II, p. 190.